

(202) 508-9522

larrysidman@paulhastings.com

August 5, 2002

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Ex Parte Communication in MM Docket No. 00-39 (Rules and Policies Affecting the Conversion to Digital Television); PP Docket No. 00-67 (Compatibility Between Cable Systems and Consumer Electronics Equipment); and CS Docket No. 97-80 (Commercial Availability of Navigation Devices)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Friday, August 2, 2002, Lawrence R. Sidman and Sara W. Morris of Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker (in person) and David Arland and Eric Carlsgaard of Thomson Multimedia ("Thomson") (telephonically), met with Rick Chessen, William Johnson, Michael Lance, Michael Perko, Thomas Horan and Susan Mort of the Media Bureau to discuss matters in the above-mentioned proceedings.

Specifically, and as reflected in the attached presentation (which was distributed at the meeting), Thomson urged the Commission to act decisively to ensure availability of "plug and play" cable-DTV functionality (which Thomson defines as a DTV receiver with integrated cable reception electronics that permit a consumer to view both basic and premium cable video channels without the need for a set-top box, similar to today's NTSC "cable-ready" televisions). Discussion focused especially on the need for cable operators to provide complete channel tuning information to enable DTV receivers to build even rudimentary navigational tools for consumers, and the extent of program information that might be required. Thomson suggested such data could be provided either in-band (through the use of the A65 standard) or out-of-band (through the POD). Commission staff and Thomson explored the possibility of some discrete part of the OCAP standard being utilized for immediate implementation of this functionality, with Thomson noting that finality on the OCAP standard still is approximately 6-7 years away.

Thomson urged the Commission to consider augmenting its semi-annual reporting requirements on cable-DTV compatibility to require the cable and CE industries to report to the Commission, by a date certain, that final "plug and play" standards have been agreed to and will

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
August 2, 2002
Page 2

be universally implemented by both industries. Failing such inter-industry agreement, Thomson urged the Commission to require DTV-cable “plug and play” compatibility through an expedited rulemaking proceeding. Thomson recommended EIA-CEA 818C for “Cable-Ready-1” DTV receivers and EIA-CEA 819 for “Cable-Ready-3” receivers, both of which reference applicable SCTE standards.

Thomson urged the Commission to require availability of fully functional PODs from cable operators by no later than January 1, 2003, noting again the importance that PODs pass through complete channel tuning information for rudimentary navigation tools in DTVs. Finally, Thomson noted that no independent CE company has signed the PHILA license due to its being overly broad, overly intrusive and open-ended. Thomson suggested Commission action to require the negotiation of a reasonable PHILA, updated to reflect recent developments and elimination of such digital content protection mechanisms as selectable output control and down-resolution.

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission’s Rules, 47 C.F.R. §1.1206, an original and one copy of this letter are being filed with your office.

Please direct any questions concerning this matter to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Lawrence R. Sidman

Attachment

cc (with attachment): Rick Chessen
William Johnson
Michael Lance
Michael Perko
Thomas Horan
Susan Mort